

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 012072 TOSEC 010022

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS -- TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JANUARY 16,  
1978

NO. 2

1. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE OF RESUMPTION JANUARY 17 OF  
BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, INCLUDING SUMMARY OF  
ACTIVITIES OF AMB. GOLDBERG AND DELEGATION MEMBERS DURING  
RECESS, MEETING WITH WIDE RANGE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TO  
DISCUSS DOMESTIC PERCEPTIONS OF CSCE PROCESS AND BELGRADE  
MEETING. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID GOLDBERG RETURNS TO BELGRADE  
WITH MANDATE TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE  
AND THOSE WHERE FURTHER EFFORTS ARE NEEDED; AND THAT HE IS  
STOPPING IN COPENHAGEN TO CONFER WITH DANISH OFFICIALS  
SINCE DENMARK CURRENTLY HOLDS EC PRESIDENCY.

2. U.S. MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE, NIGERIA: (QUESTIONS AROSE

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BASED ON NY TIMES STORY THAT U.S. PLANS TO CUT ZAIRE AID BY  
HALF AND START SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR NIGERIA.)  
SPOKESMAN SAID IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT CORRECT THAT WE HAVE  
DECIDED TO CUT MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE IN FISCAL 1979.  
CONGRESS REDUCED FISCAL 1978 AID FROM \$30 MILLION TO \$17.5

MILLION. FOR FISCAL 1979 WE WILL PROPOSE TO CONGRESS A

LEVEL OF FMS CREDITS COMMENSURATE WITH POST-SHABA MILITARY SITUATION IN ZAIRE. DECISIONS ON LEVEL AND NATURE OF THESE CREDITS RELATE TO OUR ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY NEEDS OF THAT COUNTRY IN LIGHT OF SHABA EXPERIENCE. SPOKESMAN DID NOT SPECULATE WHETHER FISCAL 79 AID WOULD REMAIN SAME, DECREASE OR INCREASE. DECISION ON LEVEL WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT REFERENCE TO NIGERIA, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORT. CONCERNING NIGERIA, SPOKESMAN SAID WE HAVE NOT APPROVED \$2 MILLION TRAINING PROGRAM, AND DO NOT HAVE CONCESSIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (IN REPLY TO TAKEN QUESTIONS LATER, HE SAID WE DO NOT PLAN TO PROPOSE EITHER OF THESE FOR FISCAL 1979.) SEVERAL HUNDRED NIGERIAN OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN U.S. EACH YEAR FOR PAST YEARS, WITH NIGERIA PAYING ALL COSTS.

3. U.S. SECOND DIVISION IN KOREA: CLARIFYING WHAT PRESIDENT SAID IN WEEKEND INTERVIEW CONCERNING USE TO BE MADE OF THIS DIVISION WHEN IT HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM KOREA, SPOKESMAN SAID DIVISION WILL BE REDEPLOYED TO U.S. WHERE IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONTINGENCY USE IN FAR EAST OR IN NATO AREA, OR ELSEWHERE IF NEED AROSE. IT WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE USED WITHIN NATO OR SENT TO EUROPE.

4. ETHIOPIA AND SOVIET AIRLIFT: RESPONDING TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP LAST WEEK, SPOKESMAN SAID U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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IS AWARE TO DATE OF ABOUT 50 FLIGHTS IN SOVIET AIRLIFT. TWO-THIRDS OF THESE HAVE BEEN HEAVY AND MEDIUM TRANSPORTS, REMAINING THIRD CHARTER AEROFLOT FLIGHTS. SPOKESMAN READ INTO RECORD STATEMENT ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT JANUARY 14 CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS BY TASS THAT U.S. HAD PUSHED SOMALIA INTO OGADEN WAR. HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING ON REPORTS OF SHIPMENT BY IRAN AND SAUDIS OF GERMAN-MADE WEAPONS TO SAMALIA, OR ANY COMMENT. HE EQUALLY HAD NO POSITION AS TO WHETHER THOSE COUNTRIES SHOULD SHIP GERMAN ARMS TO SOMALIA. ASKED WHETHER, SINCE PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 12 NEWS CONFERENCE, U.S. HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO SOVIETS ABOUT AIRLIFT, SPOKESMAN THOUGHT IT WAS FAIRLY LIKELY, BUT TOOK QUESTION; LATER RESPONSE WAS THAT SUCH EXPRESSION OF CONCERN HAD IN FACT BEEN MADE, WITHOUT FURTHER DETAILS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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